

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF SALT LAKE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board Study Session
and Closed Executive Session

February 18, 2014

The Board of Education of Salt Lake City School District met in a Board Study Session and Closed Executive Session at 5:34 p.m. on Tuesday, February 18, 2014, in the Board Room of the Administration Building, 440 East 100 South, Salt Lake City, Utah.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: President Kristi Swett, Vice President Heather Bennett, J. Michael Clára, Rosemary Emery, Dr. Douglas Nelson, and Lavenita Vaitai, Student Member.

Members Excused: Tiffany Sandberg and Laurel H. Young.

Also Present: Superintendent McKell Withers; Janet Roberts, Business Administrator; Patrick Garcia, Associate Superintendent School Support; Craig Ruesch, Interim Executive Director, Human Resources; Kristina Kindl, Director of Policy and Legal Services; Kenneth Grover, Director, Career and Technology Education and Secondary School Support; Michael Williams, Director of Development and External Relations; Jo Ellen Shaeffer, Director of Performance & Accountability; Susan McFarland, President, Salt Lake Teachers Association; Cindy Mills, representing the Salt Lake Educational Office Personnel Association; Brad Asay, President, AFT Utah; Jason Olsen, Public Information Officer; Nineveh Dinha and Eric Weseman, *Fox 13 News*; Nadia Crow and Bill Brussard, *KTVX News*; Tina Hatch, Business Administration Office; and others in the audience.

In accordance with the agenda prepared for the Board Study Session of February 18, 2014, two motions were made. Items are reported as listed in the agenda and not necessarily in the order they were considered.

The meeting was called to order by President Swett, who presided.

1. CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 5:34 p.m. a motion was made, after which members excused the audience and remained in the board room:

*(1) That the board meet in Closed Executive Session to consider litigation, negotiations, personnel, and property items.

** (Nelson and Emery)

Present for Closed Session were Kristi Swett, Heather Bennett, J. Michael Clára, Rosemary Emery, Dr. Douglas Nelson, McKell Withers, Janet Roberts, Patrick Garcia, Kristina Kindl, and John Robson, board legal counsel from Fabian Attorneys at Law.

Board members adjourned from the Closed Executive Session at 6:25 p.m. and returned to the Board Study Session at 6:30 p.m.

2. USBA Master Board Training. The training was postponed, and will be rescheduled at a later date.

VOTE RECORD	AYE	NAY	ABSENT
BENNETT	X		
CLÁRA	1	2	
EMERY	X		
NELSON	X		
SWETT	X		
SANDBERG			X
YOUNG			X
A Absent	Ab Abstention	F Failed	
N "No" Vote	NA No Action	T Tabled	
W Withdrawn	*Unanimous Approval		
**Members Making Motion			

3. BOARD STUDY SESSION

- President Swett welcomed everyone in the audience. She excused Tiffany Sandberg and Laurel Young.
- Dr. Aubree Gardner led the audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
- Limited Consent Agenda

^N(2) A motion was made that the board approve the one item included in the Limited Consent Agenda. This item is listed below. Approval was given to the motion on a vote of 4 to 1, with Mr. Clára voting “No”.

** (Bennett and Nelson)

- a. The Purchasing Report dated February 18, 2014, included a breakdown of items costing over and under \$50,000.

Prior to approval, Mr. Clára distributed a letter which included a Government Records Access Management Act (GRAMA) request, and outlined the reasons for his ‘no’ vote for the Purchasing Report. A copy of the letter has been included in the official minutes.

A. STUDY TOPICS

1. Student Achievement Plan: Assessment. JoEllen Shaeffer, Director of Performance & Accountability, introduced Adrian Bancroft, Paula Espinoza-Wells, Aubree Gardner and Claustina Reynolds, Data Specialists; Kate Arch, Writing Specialist; and Terrilyn Lee, Testing Specialist. She presented the board with an update on the Assessment and Evaluation Essential of the Student Achievement Plan. She said her team would address Educational Data and Analysis, Assessment, Writing, and Data Support Districtwide. Copies of her memo and presentation have been included in the official minutes.

Mr. Bancroft discussed the roll-out of Illuminate. He said at least 1000 district teachers have received two or more trainings on the software. He said five years of data have been uploaded to Illuminate, and he talked about the testing that has been done using Illuminate this year. He said approximately 48% of users have logged into the system in the last 30 days, and the majority of those users were teachers. He described the usage of the software, and said the Assessment Department is continuing to provide support for teachers and principals.

Ms. Espinoza-Wells outlined the goals for the 2014-15 school year. She said as principals ask for training and new reports, the Assessment Department works with them to meet their needs. She said they hope to include Illuminate in the orientation process for new teachers, which will give them an introduction to the software. She said the department is working to improve reports, provide more administrator training, and develop new interim test reports. She said training for a new business intelligence tool will help the district use Illuminate more effectively, and will help teachers improve instruction. She said Illuminate is creating new item types, including drag and drop, which will make the interim testing more similar to the Student Assessment of Growth and Excellence (SAGE) tests. She said Assessment will also create a student survey using the Illuminate system. She talked about the efficacy of the training provided to date.

Ms. Gardner talked about the creation of a data warehouse for the district. She said it integrates several separate data sources into one location, and will create Cumulative Assessment Reports for teachers. She said Assessment will continue to work with the IT Department to make sure correct data is used.

Ms. Lee reported on the SAGE system. She said there is a SAGE Formative Test, a SAGE Interim Test that will roll out in the fall, and the SAGE Summative Test. She said this year is the district's operation field test for the SAGE Summative Test. She said all students in the state will be assessed by grade or course, depth of knowledge, and critical thinking. She said the tests are not timed, but there is a guideline for how long students should be given to complete tests. She said there are training tests available on the SAGE portal (<http://sageportal.org/training-tests/>) so the public can see the types of questions students will be asked. The board was given a demonstration of the portal, and Ms. Shaeffer said test accessibility for all students has been considered, and headphones have been ordered for all district schools. Ms. Shaeffer distributed a document from the State Office of Education about the SAGE Assessment System. A copy of the document has been included in the official minutes.

Ms. Shaeffer said the state average scores will decline during the first few years of SAGE testing, in part because the test is adaptive within the core content for the students. She said after a few years the scores will return to the previous numbers. Superintendent Withers said the scores will be more accurate, and will create a richer baseline for teachers. He said this will create a connected set of standards, and will measure what students have learned in greater detail.

Ms. Reynolds said in order to raise the bar, include more academic rigor, and to help students be college and career ready, the district has adopted the World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment (WIDA). She said WIDA looks at the district's standards and

measures students' academic language. She said this assessment goes along with the State Common Core. She said there were meetings and collaboration to prepare for the roll-out of WIDA, which occurred on February 3, 2014, and there have been weekly evaluations to see how the roll-out went, as well as what supports could be provided. She discussed the ability of students to test out of the English Language Learner designation, and said the goal is to make sure students don't linger at one level. She noted the designation determines the level of support necessary for students.

Ms. Shaeffer said the second grade Language Arts test has been rewritten to match the Utah Core, and will be administered through Illuminate this spring. She said principals will have the choice of administering the test paper-pencil this year. She said the first grade Language Arts test will be rewritten for the spring of 2015, and the kindergarten test will be the same as last year, but will be rewritten for the fall of 2014. She said the district writes tests for K-2 because SAGE covers only grades 3-11.

Ms. Arch reported the district used the new writing tests for the fall. She said the SAGE Formative Tests include writing, but do not have a scoring mechanism for the writing. She said the Interim Tests do have a scoring measure, and will be used to model the Summative Tests for students. She said K-2 will continue to do district writing. She said by spring of 2015 SAGE should be providing the district with all writing score information. She provided the board with a demonstration of the writing tests.

At the conclusion of her presentation, board members asked Ms. Shaeffer about a memo regarding 2013 Graduation Rates. Ms. Shaeffer explained the "unknown" exit code, stating the students who fall into this category have withdrawn from district schools, and their whereabouts are unknown. She said some students may have returned to their home countries. The "unknown" students are included in the dropout numbers. She said the higher rates of graduation in the district are encouraging. A copy of the memo has been included in the official minutes.

The board thanked Ms. Shaeffer and her staff for their report.

2. Budget Development. Janet Roberts handed out a copy of what will be presented by the Chairs of the Public Education Appropriation Subcommittee to Executive Appropriations, and includes the final budget priorities for ongoing and one-time items. She said the biggest change was made to the recommendation for a 1% increase in the Weighted Pupil Unit (WPU), which was changed to a recommended 2.5% increase. She said not all items recommended by the committee made the list of priorities, but some may be included in other bills. She said new state revenue estimates should be available the first of March. A copy of the handout has been included in the official minutes.

B. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Miscellaneous Updates:

Legislative Priorities. Superintendent Withers distributed the Utah State Board of Education Legislative Tracking sheet, and noted priority bills. A copy of the handout has been included in the official minutes, and will be posted on the district's Website.

Statewide Collaboration. Superintendent Withers said Governor Herbert has noticed the collaboration between the district and other local entities, including the city and the University of Utah, on the Cradle to Career initiative. He said the Governor is interested in educating a broader audience across the state about this collaboration, as it fits his 66% by 2020 goal. The Superintendent said there is concern that enrollment in higher education was down this fall, but that decline may be reflective of positive changes in the economy.

School Lunch Changes. Superintendent Withers distributed two press releases from the district since last board meeting. He said they were forwarded to all media, all district employees, and the families of all students. He answered questions from the board about flagging inactive accounts so they don't continue to receive notifications, and said to contact Child Nutrition if there are questions about a student's lunch balance. Copies of the handouts have been included in the official minutes.

President Swett thanked the district for acting quickly to make sure students are never put in a similar situation again. She said although she has complete confidence in what has been done so far, she has initiated an outside investigation by Squire and Co. into the incident. She said she hopes the investigation will help the district to move forward, and asked district Superintendency to provide to Squire all complaints, all letters, and any other information they need. She said Squire will report back to the board in two weeks, in an open meeting.

C. ADJOURNMENT

The Board Study Session was adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

Janet M. Roberts
Business Administrator

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